Contacts:

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For Immediate Release

**Event Details:**

Wednesday, April 5, 2023

9:00 am

West Central High School Colosseum, Hartford, SD

**FFA Members Showcase Scientific Problem Solving**

March 27, 2023 (Hartford) - The South Dakota FFA Agriscience Fair, Wednesday, April 5, 2023, will showcase FFA members from across SD and their research projects centering on the science and technology of agriculture. Hosted at West Central High School in Hartford, SD, this years’ competition features 227 FFA members from across the state and a total of 154 projects.

The FFA Agriscience Fair recognizes students who gain real-world, hands-on experiences in agricultural enterprises. Students use scientific principles and emerging technologies to solve complex problems related to agriculture, food, and natural resources. The agriscience fair is for middle and high school students. Participation begins at the local level and progresses to state and national levels.

FFA members complete their research in one of six categories:

 **Animal Systems**

 **Environmental Natural Resource Systems**

 **Food Products and Processing Systems**

 **Plant Systems**

 **Power, Structural, and Technical Systems**

 **Social Systems**

Within the categories, members compete in the following divisions:

 **Division 1** -individual member in 7th or 8th grade

 **Division 2** -teams of two members in 7th or 8th grade

 **Division 3** -individual member in 9th or 10th grade

 **Division 4** -teams of two members in 9th or 10th grade

 **Division 5** -individual member in 11th or 12th grade

 **Division 6** -teams of two members in 11th or 12th grade

Student projects include a written report valued at 100 points and an in-person display and presentation to judges with a maximum point value of 120 points. Written and in-person scores are added together to calculate final placings. State finalists will be announced on April 5th at the conclusion of the in-person judging and earn a cash prize from sponsors as a special project of the South Dakota FFA Foundation. Winners in each division will be announced and awards presented at the State FFA Convention April 18, 2023, in Brookings, SD, and those projects will advance for national level competition.

**About the South Dakota FFA**

As part of the National FFA Organization, the South Dakota FFA Association encompasses 109 FFA chapters with 5,500 South Dakota FFA members. The National FFA Organization is a national youth organization of 850,823 student members as part of 8,995 local FFA chapters in all 50 states, Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands. FFA strives to make a positive difference in the lives of students by developing their potential for premier leadership, personal growth and career success through agricultural education.

The SD FFA Foundation provides an avenue of funding for the SD FFA Association as they build leaders, grow communities and strengthen agriculture. To discover more about the South Dakota FFA Association or the South Dakota FFA Foundation, visit them both at www.aged.sdstate.edu or on Facebook or Twitter.

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